

MEMORANDUM



DATE: May 30, 2008

TO: ALS Providers
BLS Providers
Base Hospitals

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING POTENTIAL STROKE CENTER DESIGNATIONS

Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) is developing capabilities that at some date may result in designation as an ICEMA authorized Stroke Hospital. ICEMA is interested in exploring all potential resources that will lead to improved access to the best level of care for EMS patients. We have begun initial communications with appropriate medical staff at LLUMC.

Possible implementation of any Stroke Center Program for prehospital care will require a process similar to implementation of trauma and STEMI centers. Hospital criteria for designation as a stroke center must be developed, prehospital provider concerns must be addressed, prehospital care training in recognition of possible stroke patients must be accomplished, and appropriate CQI programs must be developed.

Until such time as ICEMA formally implements a Stroke Center Program, all 9-1-1 providers and paramedic base hospitals must follow the basic premise of destination: "Absent decisive factors to the contrary, ambulances shall transport to the closest hospital staffed, equipped, and prepared to receive the patient." All hospitals maintaining a Basic Emergency Department permit issued by the State of California or otherwise designated by ICEMA are generally considered to be "staffed, equipped, and prepared to receive stroke patients." Transport to other than the closest "Basic" emergency department may only be considered in accordance with ICEMA policies. Please ensure that you are adhering to ICEMA approved destination policies.

Questions may be directed to Sherri Shimshy at sshimshy@cao.sbcounty.gov or at 909-388-5823

cc: ICEMA Executive Director
Provider Agency Medical Directors
Medical Advisory Council
EMCC
Hospital Association of Southern California